

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Member Present**

The Honorable Douglas Domenech, Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair  
The Honorable Patricia S. Ticer, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Steven Apicella Joseph Barlow  
Alexandra Liddy Bourne Margaret Davis  
William C. Dickinson Thomas B. Graham  
Mary Helen Morgan

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Members Not Present**

The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds Nancy T. Bowles  
Anna Lawson Bonnie Moorman  
L. Clifford Schroeder, Sr. Brooks M. Smith

**Agency Staff Present**

David A. Johnson, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Secretary  
John Moore, DCR  
Jeb Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Director, DCR  
Danette Poole, DCR  
Elizabeth Tune, Department of Historic Resources  
Tom Smith, DCR  
Michael R. Fletcher, DCR  
Rob Farrell, Department of Forestry  
David C. Dowling, DCR  
Sarah Richardson, DCR  
Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR  
Elizabeth Andrews, Office of the Attorney General  
Philip Reed, Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Heather Richards  
Bob Lee, Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Deb Van Duzee, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Kevin Schmidt, VDACS

**Others Present**

Barbara Duke, City of Virginia Beach  
?? Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Todd Hofner, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

John Mitchell, King George County  
Ray Pickering, Fauquier County  
Phil Sheridan  
Enos Richardson, Fredericksburg  
Nikki Rovner, The Nature Conservancy  
Alison Teetor, Clarke County  
Joe Thompson, Northern Virginia Land Conservancy  
Emily Warner, Potomac Conservancy  
Ernest Wilson

**Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2011**

MOTION: Mr. Dickenson moved that the minutes of the May 3, 2011 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Bourne

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Financial Report**

Mr. Moore gave the updated financial report. A copy of the report is available from DCR.

**Presentation of Grant Overview and Presentation of Grant Projects for Authorization**

Mr. Dowling gave an overview of the expenditure plan and what funds were available. He noted that funds totaling \$2,404,408.00 were available. A full copy of this summary is available from DCR.

Mr. Dowling noted that at the May meeting the Board approve the fiscal plan and the Grants Manual which contains the scoring criteria.

Agency staff presented the projects recommended for funding in the FY 2011 and FY 2012 grant round.

Kevin Schmidt of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services presented the farmland projects recommended in the Farmland and Forest Preservation Category.

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Clarke County Easement Authority – Arkfeld Farm

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 200 acres in Clarke County. The Arkfelds have owned and farmed this property and an adjacent 150-acre parcel since the late 1990s. Primarily used as a cow calf operation, Arkfeld Farm also is used for crop, hay, and pasture production. There are 85 acres of prime soils and 25 acres of locally important soils on this property. The property also has nearly one mile of riparian area along the Opequon Creek (an EPA designated impaired waterway.)

**Total Project Cost:** \$480,000. Match: NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection program \$240,000; landowner donation \$120,000; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services \$20,000; Clarke County PDR program \$20,000; and Piedmont Environmental Council land preservation trust \$40,000.

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$40,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$40,000.

Potomac Conservancy – Island Ford Farm

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 150 acres in Shenandoah County. The Vance family has been farming this Century Farm since the original grant from Lord Fairfax. This property, which produces beef cattle, hay and vegetables, includes 88 acres of prime farmland, 60+acres of woodland, and 1.1 miles of frontage on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The easement will be co-held with the Shenandoah County Conservation Easement Authority, and will be the authority's first project. The farm uses livestock stream exclusion fencing, alternative water systems, rotational grazing, and forested riparian buffers, and these protections will be continued in the conservation easement.

**Total Project Cost:** \$339,550. Match: NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection program \$165,000; landowner donation \$82,500; and Landowner and Potomac Conservancy expenses \$9,550.

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$82,500.

**Recommended amount:** \$82,500.

Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority – Moore and Dorsey – Bell and Johnson Tracts

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 151 acres of farmland in Clarke County. Moore and Dorsey, Inc. has owned this property for more than 50 years. This farm and an additional 800 acres owned by Moore and Dorsey was a viable apple orchard until recently when it was converted to a landscape nursery due to a downturn in the apple industry. This property, which contains 104 acres of prime soils, 14 acres of state important soils and 30 acres of locally important soils, also is within the Long Marsh Rural Historic District and will include in the easement the protection of two historic structures contributing to that district.

**Total Project Cost:** \$875,000. Match: NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection program \$437,500; landowner donation \$218,750; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services \$10,000; Clarke County PDR program \$10,000; and Piedmont Environmental Council land preservation trust \$80,000.

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$118,750.

**Recommended amount:** \$80,000.

Fauquier County PDR Program – Elizabeth Noland PDR Project

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 168.5 acres of farmland in Fauquier County. The Noland Farm is a working cattle and hay farm, and has 111 acres of prime soils and 15 acres of locally important soils. The Noland family previously operated a dairy on this farm for over 40 years, and currently leases and farms adjacent farmland as well. The farm is adjacent to three other protected farms. In addition, the 271 acre state-owned Weston Wildlife Management Area is adjacent. Inclusion of the Noland Farm would result in a contiguous block of 1,500 acres of farmland protected through the Fauquier County PDR program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$282,000. Match: Fauquier County PDR program \$157,000; and Landowner donation \$25,000.

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$52,047.

Rob Farrell from the Department of Forestry presented the Forestry Projects.

Meadowview Biological Research Station – Pitchers for the Public

A grant has been requested to provide funding for the acquisition of 17 acres adjacent to Fort AP Hill in Caroline County to serve as Meadowview's Central Virginia Preserve. The 17 acres includes rare gravel bog habitat and adjacent uplands. Meadowview purchased three acres of the property in 2010 and the remaining fourteen acres are under a lease-to-own contract. The two properties are undergoing habitat restoration through mechanical clearing, chemical site treatments, and prescribed fire to enhance indigenous rare plants found on the properties. The site is used for guided tours, research, educational, and recreational purposes.

**Total Project Cost:** \$114,000. Match will come from cash donations and principal paid on 3 acres already purchased.

**VLCF Request:** \$56,500.

**Recommended amount:** \$56,500.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Upper Hoskins Creek

Funding is requested to purchase a conservation easement on 211.7 acres of forestland near Tappahannock in Essex County. The property is bounded by Hoskins Creek to the north and east over a distance of 1.3 miles. Hoskins Creek, a navigable tidal waterway, is a tributary of the tidal portion of the Rappahannock River. This easement will include extensive riparian buffers on tidal and freshwater creeks, protecting both water quality and the view from Hoskins Creek.

**Total Project Cost:** \$342,250. Match will be provided by a bargain sale from the landowner.

**VLCF Request:** \$137,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$137,000.

Mr. Graham asked if there was an easy way for entities to apply for the next ground if they were not awarded a grant or if they had to reapply.

Ms. Richardson said that there was usually a fair amount of time between grant rounds. She said that generally enough time will elapse that the project has either moved ahead without VLCF funding or has been withdrawn. Sometimes there can be two years between grant rounds.

Mr. Dowling said that in this case the Cheroenhaka Protect Land project was actually being funded in the Natural Area Protection Category.

Mr. Apicella asked if there was an appeals process if an applicant disagreed with the scoring.

Mr. Dowling said that the Board meeting was the forum for those type of disagreements. He said that the scoring spread sheet is shared as projects are brought forward. He said that in the past there have been applicants who have shown up and questioned the scoring. He said that on rare occasions there have been adjustments. He said that usually by this point staff is aware of questions.

Ms. Richardson said that applicants often ask for scoring sheets, but that was generally to determine where they could have improved their application.

Elizabeth Tune from the Department of Historic Resources Presented the Historic Area Preservation Category.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources – Werowocomoco Archaeological Site

Funding is requested for the purchase of an easement over 60 acres of property containing the Werowocomoco archaeological site, acknowledged to be the location of paramount chief Powhatan's village and the political and spiritual center of the Powhatan tribal confederacy. Captain John Smith's diaries indicate that this is likely the location where his life was saved by Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas. Archaeological investigations have identified a heavily-occupied settlement that retains a remarkable level of physical and scientific integrity. Easement of the property will allow for preservation of a site equal in importance to historic Jamestowne, as well as preservation of scenic open space and York River waterfront.

**Total Project Cost:** \$600,000. Match: \$500,000 (Sandra Speiden Trust and Historic Resources Fund).

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$80,000.

The County of Spotsylvania – “Stonewall” Jackson Amputation Site and Surrounding Areas

Funding is requested for the purchase of 81.69 acres of property located within the study area of the Chancellorsville Civil War Battlefield. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission of the National Park Service has given this battlefield a preservation priority of I.2 (good integrity, high to moderate threat, more than 20% protected). The property includes the site of the field hospital where the left arm of the Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was amputated on May 3, 1863 following the Battle of

Chancellorsville. Jackson died a few days later, depriving General Robert E. Lee of one of his most trusted commanders. The property is adjacent to National Park Service property, and to other battlefield properties under consideration for conservation easement. Purchase of the property would allow for preservation of land associated with Chancellorsville and with the pivotal event of Jackson's wounding, as well as preservation of open space along Route 3 and the area's rural and agricultural character. **Total Project Cost:** \$841,027. **Match:** \$520,497 (Civil War Preservation Trust grant, VDACS grants, Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grants, County proffers, and PDR easements on adjacent properties).

**VLCF Grant Request:** \$320,530.

**Recommended amount:** \$70,875.

Mr. Tom Smith presented the projects in the Natural Area Protection Category.

The Nature Conservancy – Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Bowen Tract

A proposal for the fee simple acquisition by The Nature Conservancy of 296 acres as an addition to the existing 731 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy and the 1,487-acre DCR Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The site contains 45 acres of riparian habitat along 1.8 miles of the globally significant Powell River and 0.25 miles of Hardy Creek. This globally significant freshwater fish and mussel habitat supports 16 globally and state rare species in addition to globally significant terrestrial plant species and cave and karst resources.

**Total Project Cost:** \$653,000. VLCF funds will be matched with VA Aquatic Resources Trust Funds and USFWS Powell River enhancement funds.

**VLCF request:** \$250,000.

**Recommend amount:** \$250,000.

The Nature Conservancy – South Quay Natural Area Preserve

A proposal for the fee simple acquisition by The Nature Conservancy of the 420-acre Byrds Point Tract as an addition to the existing 287-acre privately owned South Quay Natural Area Preserve. The tract supports 25 rare species and significant natural communities, provides significant frontage on the Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers, and is part of a 25-mile conservation corridor extending into North Carolina.

**Total Project Cost:** \$965,000. VLCF funds will be matched with funds from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

**VLCF request:** \$480,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$262,500.

Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Tribe – Cheroenhaka Protected Land

A proposal for the fee-simple acquisition by the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation, Inc. of 156 acres as an addition to the existing 100 acres owned by the Foundation and adjacent to the Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve. The site supports cypress-tupelo swamp forest, provides important buffer to the existing natural area preserve, Nottoway River, and Foundation holdings, and has strong potential for native longleaf pine restoration.

**Total Project Cost** \$300,00. VLCF funds will be matched with cash.

**VLCF request:** \$150,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$150,000.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Milton easement, Pedlar Hills Glades addition

A proposal for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to purchase a 165-acre conservation easement. The site is part of a B1 globally significant natural heritage conservation site and within functional proximity to existing protected lands held by DCR and The Nature Conservancy.

**Total Project Cost:** \$342,167. VLCF funds will be matched with a land-value donation by the landowner.

**VLCF request:** \$255,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$145,462.

Ms. Poole presented the projects in the Open Spaces and Parks Category.

City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Dept. – Lynnhaven Estuary Protection

Proposal is for fee simple acquisition of 82 acres of coastal wetlands and maritime forest in the City of Virginia Beach, in order to expand a network of existing adjacent conservation lands along Pleasure House Creek and Lynnhaven Bay. In close proximity to First Landing State Park, this acquisition will place the property in public ownership and provide public access to the shoreline and protection of the Lynnhaven watershed.

The acquisition is part of a larger conservation effort to permanently protect the entire Pleasure House Point property that includes a partnership between the City of Virginia Beach, the Trust for Public Land, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Property is ranked in the VLCNA as highly threatened with conversion to development, is identified in the 2007 VOP as a top priority open space acquisition, and is a priority in the City of Virginia Beach's comprehensive plan. Project has strong local support.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8,000,000. Match: \$3,500,000 local funding partners and \$5400,000 federal (not yet committed, but guaranteed by the City should federal funding fall through).

**Grant Request:** \$500,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$500,000.

Northern Virginia Park Authority – Gilbert's Corner Regional Park

The project purpose is to expand Gilbert's Corner Regional Park by acquiring 68 acres of land, adjacent to the first 88-acre parcel the Park Authority recently acquired, to be used for regional park purposes. Proposed park uses include previous hiking and equestrian trails and natural and historic resource interpretation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,766,101, Match: \$1,566,101.

**Grant Request:** \$200,000

**Recommended amount:** \$200,000.

City of Salem Planning Dept. – Roanoke River Greenway

Proposals is for fee simple acquisition of 8.78 acres in the City of Salem for lands and right-of-way needed for completion of the portion of the Roanoke River Greenway

between Rotary Park and the city line. Trail construction for this portion of the trail is funded by a Transportation Enhancement grant of \$688,000.

**Total Project Cost:** \$134,000. Match: \$67,650 in cash and real property.

**Grant Request:** \$66,350.

**Recommended amount:** \$33,825.

Spotsylvania County – Whitehall Trail Easement

Funding assistance is requested to acquire a public access recreational trailway easement along a roughly 2-mile portion of the abandoned Virginia Central Railroad right-of-way. The access trailway corridor follows as the Virginia Central Corridor, eventually connecting the City of Fredericksburg to Orange County, Virginia through Spotsylvania County. Once secured, the segment of interest is to be ultimately developed as a multi-use recreational trail serving bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian users.

**Total Project Cost:** \$138,874. Match: \$89,402.

**Grant Request:** \$52,871.

**Recommended amount:** \$24,762.

Public Comment from Grant Applicants

There was no public comment.

Board Discussion and Approval of Grant Awards

Senator Ticer thanked the staff for their work in preparing the recommendations.

Secretary Domenech said that the diversity of the projects was impressive.

MOTION: Ms. Bourne moved that the Virginia land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the list of recommended grant approval for the FY 2011 and FY 2012 Grant Round as presented by agency staff.

SECOND: Senator Ticer

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

At this time the Board recessed for lunch.

Following lunch, Secretary Domenech called the meeting back to order.



**Presentation of fund allocations from Land Preservation Credit Transfer Fees**

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented an overview of the fund allocations from the Land Preservation Credit Transfer Fees. She presented an overview of the enabling legislation which states:

A fee of two percent of the value of the donated interest shall be imposed upon any transfer arising from the sale by any taxpayer of credits under this article and upon the distribution of a portion of credits under this article to a member, manager, partner, shareholder or beneficiary pursuant to subsection B. Revenues generated by such fees first shall be used by the Department of Taxation and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their costs in implementing this article but in no event shall such amount exceed 50 percent of the total revenue generated by the fee on an annual basis. The remainder of such revenues shall be transferred to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for distribution to the public or private conservation agencies or organizations that are responsible for enforcing the conservation and preservation purposes of the donated interests. Distribution of such revenues shall be made annually by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation proportionally based on a three-year average on the number of donated interests accepted by the public or private conservation agencies or organizations during the immediately preceding three-year period.

The list of Conservation Agencies Receiving 2011 LPTC Stewardship Funds Pursuant to § 58.1-513 is available from DCR.

Mr. Dowling said that the original thought was that this would generate up to \$2 million for the VLCF, but to date it has not.

Ms. Bourne asked about the portion used for administrative costs.

Mr. Dowling said that the Department of Taxation reserves a portion for administrative costs. A portion then comes to DCR for administration. That portion is limited to 50%.

Ms. Bourne expressed a concern that funds would be returned to the federal government. She asked if other states or commonwealths had a similar process. She recommended that the Board recommend to the Secretary that legislation be considered to prevent paying funds directly to the federal government.

MOTION: Ms. Bourne moved that the Board approve the list of 2011 LPTC Stewardship Funds to be distributed to conservation agencies as presented by staff and that further the Board propose to the Governor legislation that would address the matter of paying the federal government for stewardship.

SECOND: Senator Ticer

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DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

### **Election of new vice-chair of the VLCF Board**

Secretary Domenech noted that Senator Ticer was not running for reelection and would be ending her time in the Senate in January. He noted that she had been a member of the Board of Trustees from the beginning.

Mr. Dickenson moved and Senator Ticer seconded that Ms. Bourne be elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees. Senator Ticer moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports on Results of Listening Sessions, 2010-2011**

Ms. Richardson gave the following overview of the listening session that had been held since November of 2012.

Over the course of eight months, from November 2010 to June 2011, four listening sessions were convened across the state to gather information and ideas about how best to achieve Governor McDonnell's 400,000-acre land conservation goal. Three of the sessions – in Williamsburg on November 17, 2010; at Claytor Lake State Park on March 8, 2011; and at Shenandoah River State Park on June 7, 2011 – were hosted by the Secretary of Natural Resources, and one, in Lexington on March 9, 2011, was hosted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

As Secretary of Natural Resources Douglas Domenech noted at the first listening session, the economy has been difficult for everyone, including the Commonwealth's budget, so creative thinking will be necessary to leverage the dollars available, and the point of the listening session was to gather those inventive ideas from people who work in the land conservation field.

The following bullet points represent comments that became recurring themes across several of the sessions:

- Land conservation in Virginia depends largely on three programs: the Land Preservation Tax Credit (LPTC), the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF), and farmland preservation through local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs. Those programs need to be protected from any attempts to weaken or de-fund them.

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- One major “engine” of land conservation is the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), which holds 60 to 70 percent of all conservation easements in the state in any given year. This quasi-public body needs to be maintained at a strong level of funding to enable it to continue to do the job it was created to do, which is to protect open-space lands in the Commonwealth.
- Federal funds for land conservation are available but they require state or local match, so increased funding to be able to make use of the federal funds will be necessary.
- It is highly important to work with the business sector and corporations in the Commonwealth to encourage donations of conservation easements on large tracts of land held by those businesses. Examples were given of Norfolk Southern, which has been an active conservation partner in North Carolina and Virginia, and Appalachian Power, which put a conservation easement on almost 5,000 acres at Smith Mountain Lake.
- One obstacle for some landowners in donating easements is the up-front costs, including legal fees. An initiative to create a pool of attorneys who would provide pro-bono advice would be helpful in many cases.
- VOF’s Land Preservation Trust Fund (PTF), which provides those up-front costs to landowners, is the most fiscally effective program (i.e., the most land –conservation value received for money spent). At least half of VOF’s easements make use of this assistance. Since PTF is largely funded from the VLCF, those two programs are linked. If VLCF is not fully funded at a high level, there are fewer funds to provide this assistance to landowners.

Some ideas that were provided on educational programs that would assist land conservation in the state follow:

- Some regions of the state are not served by private land trusts; in those areas, increased education for localities and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts about their ability to conserve land through conservation easements would be beneficial. It is particularly important for rural communities to understand that land conservation will maintain the economic base of working lands and keep farmers on their lands.
- Attendees at several sessions noted the importance of providing information to localities and land trusts about prioritizing and targeting land conservation to provide the most important lands, in terms of ecological value, agricultural/forestral value, or other values.
- Landowners continue to need information about the steps required in protecting land and the tax incentives available. Small teams of speakers that include lawyers, easement holders, and financial consultants are the most effective way to provide that

information. A small-grants program to help land trusts with outreach would provide a boost for education.

Some ideas that were provided on legislative or regulatory actions that would assist land conservation in Virginia follow:

- Several attendees supported the idea of a land-conservation bond initiative to provide state funding and match for federal funds, but it was recognized that the current economic state makes it difficult to float a bond initiative. Some attendees, however, reiterated the idea that many surveys have shown that a majority of voters will support land-conservation bond issues, so it is a bipartisan issue that needs to be considered seriously.
- In the Historic Triangle (Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown), a “rooms and meals” tax was established to help fund tourist promotion for the area. Since a significant part of tourism depends on the natural beauty of undeveloped landscapes, a dedicated stream of funding for land conservation could be established through that kind of revenue. Enabling legislation from the General Assembly would be necessary for that to be possible.
- Dedication of some percentage of real-estate transfer taxes was also mentioned as a way for localities to fund land conservation; enabling legislation to clarify this option would be needed.
- Legislation that would provide for the expiration of mineral rights after a certain period would help many landowners in the Western part of the state who would like to protect their land but are prevented from doing so because the mineral rights are held by another party.
- Although several attendees mentioned the idea of raising the annual cap on Land Preservation Tax Credits, others warned of the danger of opening the LPTC statute to amendments, and felt that it was an example of a program that was not broken and so does not need fixing.
- If the LPTC statute is opened to amendment, however, a provision that would allow the full value of the first \$100,000 of a donation (rather than 40% of the donation value) to be used for the LPTC could provide more volume of easements with lands from areas of the state where real-estate values are not so high.
- A suggestion was made to revive a 2002 legislative proposal to institute a landfill fee or “tipping fee” which proceeds going to open-space protection, since just a modest fee would provide steady funding.

## **Partner Agency Updates**

### *Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

Mr. Schmidt gave the update for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He said that since 2008, VDACS has had \$5.25 million to use for local purchase of development rights programs. So far the agency has spent just under \$5 million for a little over 5,000 acres. This includes 36 easements.

Mr. Schmidt said that in addition to the listening workshop held in Lexington, VDACS plans to hold an additional three workshops. He said that these will be more informative specifically dealing with conservation easement for working landowners.

### *Department of Conservation and Recreation*

Mr. Johnson noted that DCR staff had been briefing the Board through the course of the meeting. He noted that Suzan Bulbulkaya had joined the staff since the last meeting.

Mr. Johnson said that DCR staff will be focusing over the next several months on finding ways to jump start efforts to secure the Governor's 400,000 acre goal.

### *Department of Forestry*

Mr. Farrell gave the report for the Department of Forestry. He noted that the federal funding DOF receives is through the Forest Legacy Program. He said that Virginia has had tremendous success with this program. Most of the efforts have been in conservation easements. There were approximately 20 easements and between 3,500-4,000 acres.

### *Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

Ms. Van Duzee gave the update for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. She noted that the DGIF Board was also meeting on this date. She said that DGIF was moving forward with the resources available.

### *Department of Historic Resources*

Ms. Tune gave the report for the Department of Historic Resources.

Ms. Tune said that on Thursday, September 15, Fort Monroe would be transferred from federal ownership to the Commonwealth. This is a major effort and conservation easements will be a big part of the property.

Ms. Tune said that along with the Secretary, the DHR recently sponsored a very well attended battlefield conference.

Ms. Tune noted that the earthquake and hurricane had significant impacts on historic resources and that the agency was still dealing with the response.

*Virginia Outdoors Foundation*

Mr. Lee gave the report for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. He said that the VOF holds more than 3,000 easements on more than 615,000 acres. This is more than any other land trust in the nation.

Mr. Lee said that typically in the last decade the VOF had typically averaged 40,000 acres per year in donations. Last year the commonwealth did half of that. He said that this year would be better but would be less than 50,000 acres.

**Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

**Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Dowling noted that typically the Board meets twice annually. However, he noted that the Board had expended FY2012 funds. He said that staff would work with the Secretary's office to coordinate meeting future dates.

**Adjourn**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Domenech  
Chair  
Secretary of Natural Resources

David A. Johnson  
Executive Secretary  
Director, DCR